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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 A-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 /041 W
----------181035Z 077184 /10
O 180951Z JAN 77
FM EEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8678
AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, BM, NI, US
SUBJECT: AFRICAN REPRESENTATION IN COTONOU

REF: (A) STATE 10276; (B) COTONOU 123

1. ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL, WE AGREE WITH COTONOU THAT NIGERIANS ARE IN GOOD POSITION TO EXERT LEVERAGE ON BENINESE GOVERNMENT. THERE ARE TWO COMPLICATING FACTORS IN PRESENT SITUATION WHICH COME IMMEDIATELY TO MIND WHICH MIGHT LESSEN THAT LEVERAGE, HOWEVER. FIRST, NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO BENIN, IHAMA, IS CURRENTLY IN LAGOS. HE HAS BEEN CALLED BACK TO HELP OUT SHORT-STAFFED MEA DEAL WITH VIP VISITORS DURING FESTAC. BELIEVE SECOND SECRETARY AJIGBEDA STILL IN COTONOU. ALTHOUGH JUNIOR IN HIERARCHY IHAMA SEEMS TO RLY ON AJIGBEDA, WHO OFTEN REPRESENTS AMB AT RECEPTIONS. AJIGBEDA ALSO TREASURER OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. SECONDLY, FMG MIGHT HESITATE TO INTERVENE WITH BENINESE ON BEHALF USG IF THERE WERE ANY SUSPICION HERE THAT AMERICAN MERCENNARIES WERE INVOLVED IN THE ATTEMPTED COUP.

2. IN DISCUSSING SITUATION WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR AFRICA
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DEPARTMENT THIS MORNING, WE LEARNED THAT FMG HAS NOT REPEAT NOT YET RECEIVED ANY REPORT FROM NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN COTONOU. DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT MINISTRY IS CONCERNED AND IS PLANNING TO SEND MESSAGE TO EMBASSY THIS MORNING ASKING FOR SITUATION REPORT.

3. IN TERMS OF NON-AFRICAN LEVERAGE ON GPRB IN QUESTIONS

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AFFECTING U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL OR BASIC DIPLOMATIC PRIVI-
LEGES/COURTESIES, THOMPSON SUGGESTS COORDINATION WITH FRENCH
AMB MEADMORE (TITULAR DEAN OF DIP CORPS). FRG AMB HELDT AND
EGYPTIAN AMB HABASHI. ALL THREE HAVE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL
AND/OR ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN BENIN, AND FREQUENTLY HAVE
EXPRESSED NEED FOR DIP CORPS SOLIDARITY VIS-A-VIS CAPRICES
OF GPRB, PARTICULARLY INTERIOR MINISTRY.
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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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